

HOUSE RESOLUTION 279

By Harmon

A RESOLUTION to honor and recognize Linda Hooper, Principal of Whitwell Middle School.

WHEREAS, the Tennessee General Assembly is pleased to specially recognize and commend those educators who have given unreservedly of themselves to develop this state's most precious natural resource—our children; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Linda Hooper is one such extraordinary educator, who is serving as the principal of Whitwell Middle School; and

WHEREAS, the first person in her family to attend college, Ms. Hooper graduated from Middle Tennessee State University; and

WHEREAS, Linda Hooper inspires all of us to imagine a better future and create a better world by encouraging excellence in her students; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Hooper believes in the notion that it takes everyone working together to give students the ability to achieve their dreams, hopes, and aspirations, and she has been tremendously successful in getting the whole community involved with the school; indeed, twelve local churches have provided funds for needy middle school children to go on school trips, such as the annual trip to Walt Disney World in Orlando, Florida, and the Whitwell Police Department annually hosts a Christmas party for needy children; and

WHEREAS, one of Linda Hooper's most significant achievements in her illustrious career is when she helped start the Holocaust Paper Clip Project, which has received international recognition and acclaim as well as support through generous donations of money, an authentic prisoner rail car, and Talmud; and

WHEREAS, the project also includes a scholarship program made possible by a \$500,000 endowment by Ace Greenberg and continued support by Bear Stern Community Service; now in its third year of inception, students are selected by a six member board to

receive the scholarships based on essays and their entire body of scholastic and extracurricular achievements; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Hooper received the high honor of having scholarship recipients named “Hooper’s Scholars” in recognition of her tireless efforts and dedication to the Paper Clip Project; and

WHEREAS, a visionary principal, Linda Hooper has striven to remain abreast of technological advances in education; a teleconference with a Catholic school in the Middle Eastern country of Jordan and pen pal correspondence with science students at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga are just a few of her efforts in broadening her students’ horizons and enriching their education; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Hooper is an extremely patient and giving person who motivates her faculty and students alike to reach their full potential, perhaps the greatest of all teaching gifts; and

WHEREAS, Linda Hooper is currently teaching a Jewish Holocaust background class to seventh graders and planning her retirement at the conclusion of the next school year, when Whitwell Middle School will be operating in its newly constructed building; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Hooper is a never-ending source of inspiration to those who know and cherish her and is tremendously admired by students and staff alike; and

WHEREAS, highly regarded as a professional and as a friend, Linda Hooper is a shining example of a person totally committed to quality education and the highest ideals of public service and should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we hereby honor and commend Ms. Linda Hooper as the principal of Whitwell Middle School, salute her expertise and dedication as an educator and administrator, and wish her all the best in her future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.